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## **Guide to the South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project MSS.2006.06.30**

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**Language of Material:** English

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**Title:** South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project

**creator:** San Jose State University, Special Collections & Archives

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**Abstract:** The South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project, 2006-2010 (bulk 2006) consists of fourteen digital recordings and thirteen transcriptions documenting the experiences of women in politics in San José and Santa Clara County. The interviewees include: Blanca Alvarado, Leona Egeland Siadek, Joan Goddard, Susan Hammer, Janet Gray Hayes, Linda J. LeZotte, Zoe Lofgren, Dianne McKenna, Madison Nguyen, Karen Offen, Sally Reed, Lu Ryden, Lee Sturtevant, and Susanne Wilson.

**Language of Material:** Languages represented in the collection: English

Processed by:

Elizabeth Lopez

Date Completed:

2010

Encoded by:

Elizabeth Lopez

Reviewed by:

Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen

#### **Access**

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#### **Preferred Citation**

South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project, MSS-2006-06-30, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

#### **Processing Information**

Collection processed and EAD encoded by Elizabeth Lopez. Reviewed by Danelle Moon. Series II added to collection by Victor Rodriguez II, June 2016.

#### **Project Information**

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

#### **Project History**

The South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project was funded by a CSU Research Grant from 2005-2006. This oral history project resulted in thirteen digital recordings and complete transcriptions documenting the experiences of women in politics in San José and Santa Clara County. The interviewees include: Blanca Alvarado, Joan Goddard, Susan Hammer, Janet Gray Hayes, Linda J. LeZotte, Dianne McKenna, Madison Nguyen, Sally Reed, Lu Ryden, Leona Egeland Siadek, Lee Sturtevant, Susanne Wilson, and Zoe Lofgren.

In this time period, San José and Santa Clara County become known as the "Feminist Capital" of the nation, starting with the mayoral success of Janet Gray Hayes, who became the first elected female mayor in the United States of a city of 500,000. Her political ascendancy represented a watershed for female office holders in the U.S., and this key victory opened a floodgate for female participation in almost every level of California government, from the Mayor's office to the California Assembly, and eventually Congress. As a result Santa Clara County and specifically the city of San Jose became

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know as the "Feminist Capital of the Nation." This combined with the success of other female candidates across the U.S. led a number of national magazines to run stories on the role of women, feminism, and politics. *Time*, *People*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and even some international papers carried stories highlighting the success of these female candidates. Gray Hayes was featured in a number of articles, alongside Diane Feinstein of San Francisco, Jane Byrne of Chicago, Isabella Cannon of Raleigh, North Carolina, Carole McCellan of Austin, Texas, and Margaret Hance of Phoenix, Arizona. In 1979 the *U.S. News and World Report* ran a story highlighting the recent victories of women in politics across the U.S. According to this report 750 cities had female mayors out of 18,800 municipalities-women were making clear inroads into politics at all levels. From 1975 to 1979 the number of women in public office increased from 4.7% to 10.9%, with the largest increase at the local and state levels.

These pioneering women worked directly and indirectly for equal rights and equal participation in the political process. Some of them played a key role as the first recognized political figures in San José and the larger Bay Area, while others worked as activists and lobbyist for the Equal Rights Amendment, the environment, civil rights, including outlawing marital and date rape, and reproductive rights. Each narrator was asked to reflect on her political and social experiences from the 1960s to the present, with the objective to document women's experience through the political process, as politicians, and as non-governmental lobbyists and activists. This project provides a deeper understanding of the important role that women have played in Bay Area politics, and will advance historical understanding of the important events, activities, and resulting policies that transformed the political landscape and opened up new opportunities for women, despite the failure to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

#### **Related Material**

Susan Hammer Papers. San José State University Archives Collection.

Janet Gray Hayes Papers. San José State University Archives Collection.

Dianne McKenna Papers. San José State University Archives Collection.

Glenna Matthews Oral History Collection, San José State University.

#### **Scope and Content**

The South Bay Second Wave Feminist Oral History Project, 2006-2010 (bulk 2006), consists of fourteen digital recordings and thirteen transcriptions documenting the experiences of women in politics in San Jose and Santa Clara County. The interviewees include: Blanca Alvarado, Leone Egeland Siadek, Joan Goddard, Susan Hammer, Janet Gray Hayes, Linda J. LeZotte, Zoe Lofgren, Dianne McKenna, Madison Nguyen, Karen Offen, Sally Reed, Lu Ryden, Lee Sturtevant, and Susanne Wilson. The core collection also includes documentation on the development of the project, research files, oral release forms and other supporting documentation required by the Human Subjects-Institutional Review Board at SJSU.

The project was funded by a CSU Faculty Research Grant from 2005-2006. Danelle Moon, Director at the SJSU Special Collections and Archives, served as the principal investigator for the project. Graduate student assistants, Majorie Bryer, Jane Cooper, Karen Clementi, Amy Fonseca, and Aime McNamara provided research assistance and participated in the interview process. Special Collections staff transcribed the interviews with the exception of Linda LeZotte's transcript, which was funded by the City of San Jose.

#### **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Recordings and Transcriptions; and Series II. Interviewee Documentation and Research.

#### **Bibliography**

Flammang, Janet A. "Female Officials in the Feminist Capital: The Case of Santa Clara County," *Women's Political Quarterly* 38 no. 1 (March 1985).

Flammang, Janet A. *Women's Political Voice: How women are Transforming the Practice and Study of Politics* (Temple University Press, 1997).

Matthews, Glenna. *Silicon Valley, Women, and the California Dream: Gender, Class, Opportunity in the Twentieth Century* (Stanford University Press, 2003).

Philip J. Tronstine and Terry Christensen. *Movers and Shakers: The Study of Community Power* (St. Martin's Press, New York, 1982).

#### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Equal rights amendments -- United States

Women politicians -- Santa Clara County (Calif.) -- Interviews

Second-wave feminism -- Santa Clara County (Calif.)

Oral histories -- Santa Clara County (Calif.)

Alvarado, Blanca  
Egeland Siadek, Leona  
Goddard, Joan  
Hammer, Susan  
Hayes, Janet Gray  
LeZotte, Linda J  
Lofgren, Zoe, 1947-  
McKenna, Dianne  
Moon, Danelle  
Nguyen, Madison  
Offen, Karen  
Reed, Sally  
Ryden, Lu  
Sturtevant, Leisa (Lee)  
Wilson, Susanne

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### **Series I. Recordings and Transcriptions**

#### **Series Scope and Content Summary**

Series I consists of fourteen digital recordings and thirteen transcriptions documenting the experiences of women in politics in San Jose and Santa Clara County. The interviewees include: Blanca Alvarado, Joan Goddard, Susan Hammer, Janet Gray Hayes, Linda J. LeZotte, Zoe Lofgren, Dianne McKenna, Madison Nguyen, Karen Offen, Sally Reed, Lu Ryden, Leona Egeland Siadek, Lee Sturtevant, and Susanne Wilson. All of the interviews took place at the homes or offices of the interviewees, and the interviews of Susanne Wilson took place over the course of the Summer of 2006. Of those interviewed, Blanco Alvarado, Susan Hammer, Janet Gray Hayes, Linda J. LeZotte, Dianne McKenna, Maidson Nguuyen, Lu Ryden, Susanne Wilson, and Zoe Lofgren were elected officials in local government, and Lofgren is currently a member of Congress. Leona Egeland Siadek was elected to the California State Assembly, serving between 1974-1980, and Sally Reed served as the Assistant City Manger of San Jose and went on to become the Santa Clara County Board Executive. Joan Goddard was a labor activist and librarian, while Lee Sturtevant, a labor activist, worked behind the scenes in the local democratic party in San José.

#### **Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically by interviewee last name.

Box 1, Folder 1	<b>Alvarado, Blanca: Interview #1 August 24, 2006</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>Alvarado, Blanca: Interview #2 October 6,2006</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>Egeland Siadek, Leona: Interview January 25,2007</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>Goddard, Joan: Interview November 14, 2006</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Hammer, Susan: Interview July 11, 2006</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>Hayes, Janet Gray: Interview April 12, 2006</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>LeZotte, Linda J.: Interview June 26, 2006</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>Lofgren, Zoe: Interview April 19, 2010</b>
Box 2, Folder 1	<b>Nguyen, Madison: Interview #1</b>
Box 2, Folder 2	<b>Nguyen, Madison: Interview #2 December 18, 2008</b>
Box 2, Folder 3	<b>McKenna, Dianne: Interview April 5, 2006</b>
Box 2, Folder 4	<b>Offen, Karen: Interview</b>
Box 2, Folder 5	<b>Reed, Sally: Interview January 13, 2007</b>
Box 2, Folder 6	<b>Ryden, Lu: Interview April 17, 2006</b>
Box 2, Folder 7	<b>Sturtevant, Lee: Interview June 27, 2006</b>
Box 3, Folder 1	<b>Wilson, Susanne: Interviews #1 and #2 April 10, 2006 and June 22, 2006</b>

Box 3, Folder 2	<b>Wilson, Susanne: Interview #3 July 5, 2006</b>
Box 3, Folder 3	<b>Wilson, Susanne: Interview #4 July 27, 2006</b>
Box 3, Folder 4	<b>Wilson, Susanne: Interview #5 August 7, 2006</b>
Box 3, Folder 5	<b>Wilson, Susanne: Interview #6 August 14, 2006</b>
Box 3, Folder 6	<b>Wilson, Susanne: Interview #7 October 19, 2006</b>

**Series II. Interviewee Documentation and Research**

**Scope and Contents**

Series II includes interviewee documentation and research on the development of the project such as research files, oral release forms and other supporting documentation required by the Human Subjects-Institutional Review Board at SJSU. This series is arranged alphabetically by last name of the interviewee.

Box 4, Folder 1	<b>Alvarado, Blanca.</b>
Box 4, Folder 2	<b>Boneparth, Ellen.</b>
Box 4, Folder 3	<b>Egeland Stadek, Leona.</b>
Box 4, Folder 4	<b>Gluck, Sherna.</b>
Box 4, Folder 5	<b>Goddard, Joan.</b>
Box 4, Folder 6	<b>Goddard, Joan.</b>
Box 4, Folder 7	<b>Hammer, Susanne.</b>
Box 4, Folder 8	<b>Hayes, Janet Gray.</b>
Box 4, Folder 9	<b>Hayes, Janet Gray: 1974-1978.</b>
Box 4, Folder 10	<b>LeZotte, Linda J.</b>
Box 4, Folder 11	<b>Lofgren, Zoe</b>
Box 4, Folder 12	<b>McKenna, Dianne: Oral History Release.</b>
Box 4, Folder 13	<b>McKenna, Dianne: Research and Donor Agreement.</b>
Box 4, Folder 14	<b>Morgan, Becky.</b>
Box 4, Folder 15	<b>Nguyen, Madison.</b>
Box 4, Folder 16	<b>Offen, Karen.</b>
Box 4, Folder 17	<b>Reed, Sally.</b>
Box 4, Folder 18	<b>Reed, Sally.</b>
Box 4, Folder 19	<b>Ryden, Lu.</b>
Box 4, Folder 20	<b>Sturtevant, Lee (Leisa).</b>
Box 4, Folder 21	<b>Wilson, Susanne.</b>
Box 4, Folder 22	<b>Wilson, Susanne: Scrapbook 1973-1977.</b>
Box 4, Folder 23	<b>Project Papers</b>